

June 21, 2005

News Release

FT. LAUDERDALE ICE OFFICE IDENTIFIES FELONS FOR REMOVAL

Crimes include aggravated battery and attempted murder

FT. LAUDERDALE- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents assigned to Ft. Lauderdale's Public Safety Unit have one primary goal: identify and arrest public safety threats with no legal right to remain in the country.

Among the most recent arrests was 24-year-old Raul Flores, a citizen of Mexico convicted of aggravated battery on a pregnant victim. Flores, who entered the country illegally, has been placed into removal proceedings.

Also recently arrested was Carlos Rodriguez, 23, a Salvadorian national convicted of 2nd degree attempted murder. ICE special agents have charged Rodriguez with being in the country illegally. He will soon face an immigration judge for his administrative proceedings.

"We are out in full force to identify and arrest felons living in our communities that have no legal right to remain in the county," said Keith Perniciaro, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Miami. "These criminals will no longer terrorize our community. Those not yet arrested should know that we will find you."

Special agents are also working with local officials to identify foreign nationals serving criminal sentences that are amenable to removal. Many have been identified in Ft. Lauderdale jails and placed into removal proceedings. Those issued removal orders, will be immediately deported upon the completion of their criminal sentences.

Both Flores and Rodriguez are in ICE custody awaiting the outcome of their cases.

ICE

Page 1 of 2 www.ice.gov

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.